GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:255
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
SEED PRODUCTION
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for the expansion and modernization of seed production facilities in the public sector to produce high quality seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also planning to involve the private sector in the production of high quality seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken to ensure availability of high quality seeds to farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. In order to establish/strengthen infrastructural facilities in the public sector for production and distribution of quality seeds, assistance is provided for seed processing plants, seed storage godowns and procuring machinery for seed cleaning, grading, treating, packing etc. The detail of assistance provided for last 4 years is as under:

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2005-06    1270.20 lakhs
2006-07    625.29 lakhs
2007-08    2939.06 lakhs
2008-09 (upto 15.10.2008)      2341.65 lakhs
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(c)&(d): Yes, Sir. The National Seed Policy, 2002 envisages a greater role for the private sector in seed production in the country. Private sector contributed 41.09% of the seed produced in 2007-08 i.e. 76.50 lakh quintals. The Government of India also implements a Scheme to boost seed production in the private sector. Assistance is provided through credit linked back-ended capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs.10 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development. The assistance has been enhanced to a maximum limit of Rs.25 lakh per unit on seed infrastructure development in the Eleventh plan (2007-08 onwards). The details of the assistance availed of by different states under the scheme is at Annexure-I.

(e): To ensure availability of high quality seeds to farmers, the systematic production of Breeder, Foundation and Certified/quality seed is undertaken in every season by the seed producing agencies viz Indian Council of Agriculture Research Institutes, State Agricultural Universities, State Department of Agriculture, State Seed Corporation, National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India, seed cooperatives and private sector etc. Assistance is provided under various schemes for production and distribution of seeds viz
(i) Macro Management Mode of Agriculture through State Work Plan,
(ii) Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize,
(iii) Technology Mission on Jute and Mesta,
(iv) Technology Mission on Cotton,
(v) Transport subsidy on Movement of Seeds to North Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttrakhand & hill areas of West Bengal,
(vi) Seed Village Programme,
(vii) Infrastructure facilities in public sector,
(viii) Boosting Seed Production in Private Sector and (ix) National Food Security Mission. Government of India assess the seed requirement and availability in Zonal Input Conferences before every sowing season with the State Departments of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agriculture Research, State Seed Corporations, National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India, Cooperatives and Private sector etc.